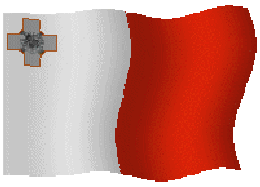
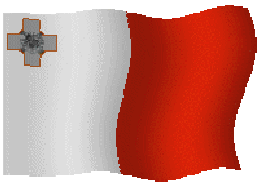


MARL



MALTA

Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan Radio Amateurs

Number 21

December 2007

Smoking is prohibited at the Centre

By the Editor

Friends,
I welcome you to another issue of this magazine for December 2007 which is issue 21 in this series.

In this issue you have photos of radio amateurs that took part in cooperation with the Civil Protection Department in the "Lejl Imdawwal" that was held in the beginning of October in Valletta City.

You also have photos of the "Pasta Night" that we had at the MARL Club on Saturday 27 October.

As we had previously told you, between October and November the World Telecommunications Conference was meeting where there were a number of proposals that were of interest to us radio amateurs.

Now that this Conference has closed, we are bringing you information connected with our hobby on which agreement has been reached.

We are also bringing you a report that appeared in the Times of Malta on 1 November about the Jamboree that is a Scouts yearly event in which radio amateurs participate by providing their apparatus so that scouts can communicate between themselves around the world. Another report also appeared on Maltastar.com

Although now internet is also used, and in fact it was the 10th year that it was used during the Jamboree, this year was also the 50th year that the Jamboree was held on the air, that is through the use of transmitters and receivers.

Although I asked those that I knew that were going to take part to send me some photos or photos and a short write-up about the activity so that we can publish them in this magazine, I haven't yet received anything. I hope that someone will do a little work and send me something so that everything will remain written for the future.

Do not forget that the end of the year and the beginning of the New Year is nearly with us, and the Financial Secretary will be waiting for you to pay your membership for next year. He will be at the Club every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

I thank all those who work and give their share in any way in the interest of our Association while I hope that you find the information in the magazine useful for you and if you have an article please leave it in my QSL box.

Lawrence 9H1AV / 9H9MHR

136 kHz in Malta

Further down you have information about what was done at the World Radio Conference that was held in Geneva between October and November this year.

The World Conference decided to give a secondary allocation to radio amateurs on a worldwide basis and that this should be given from 1 January 2009. This does not mean that national authorities cannot grant it before, as has in fact been done in many countries.

Therefore, after the Conference decided that this allocation should be given, contacts were made with Malta's Communications Authority to see when we are going to be given this allocation.

While the Communications Authority accepted to give us this allocation, this is not going to be granted now due to technical difficulties.

The plans are that next year, around March, Malta's frequency band plan will be revised. This is expected to take around six months. Apart from this, there is another EU conference on common European allocations.

Therefore, it appears that we will be given this allocation towards the end of next year.

Until that time, one can get equipment ready so that when we are given this frequency you can start operating on it.

However, do not forget that this is only 2.1 kHz wide, and therefore we have to be careful not to interfere with each other. The power is 1 Watt E.I.R.P., but to radiate this power you need a powerful transmitter due to the inefficiency of practical antennas on this frequency where the wavelength is 2,200 metres.

7 MHz

A request was also made by the Secretary for us to be granted an increased frequency on 7 MHz, so that this will be from 7 MHz to 7.3 MHz.

However, this request was not granted because there was no agreement about it at the World Radio Conference. Between 7 MHz and 7.3 MHz is the allocation that radio amateurs have in Regions 2 and 3, while in Region 1 the allocation is between 7 MHz and 7.2 MHz.

QSO on 500 kHz

In the last issue we gave you information about a QSO that was made between GI4DPE and VE1DVM on this frequency. Today I am going to give you further information. Another QSO was made between GI4DPE on 501.3 kHz and WE2XGHR/2 on 506.5 kHz on Wednesday 14 November.

This QSO was made on a distance of 4890 km, or 3039 miles. Although WE2XGR/2 had interference, call signs were exchanged, signal strength reports and other pleasantries for a number of times, while Finbar, GI4DPE was copying excellent signals.

When will we be able to use this frequency in Malta so that perhaps we will be one of the first people to be given this frequency? Perhaps when the white flies come?[1]

Authorities in other countries take decisions as happened in the United States, United Kingdom, and other countries that have granted allocations to their radio amateurs notwithstanding that no decision had been taken from some World Radio Conference although presently their number is limited.

Konferenza Dinjija tar-Radju 2007

136 kHz

The approval for a secondary allocation to radio amateurs had passed at the Group 4C Level with two notes on Friday 2 November as we had told you in the previous edition.

On Friday 9 November, during the afternoon, the first reading of this proposal was also approved by the Plenary and is now totally approved.

This proposal that was approved gave a secondary allocation to radio amateurs between 135.7 – 137.8 kHz with a transmitter power of 1 W e.i.r.p. One has to remember that s/he has to use a transmitter power of several hundred watts due to the small size of practical antennas for this frequency.

This is because when one considers the wavelength on this frequency which is 2200 metres one becomes aware that practical antennas will be very small and therefore their efficiency will also be very small.

In fact, by a simple calculation you will become aware that you will not find a radio amateur who will be able to make a vertical antenna when you consider that it it will be 550 metres high, that is more than twice the height of Ħad-Dingli cliffs.

On the other hand, to make a horizontal antenna, let's say a dipole, it will have to be 1,10 metres long, while to be a half wave high it will have to be the same height.

However, this should not make one lose his/her eagerness, because contacts were made between Canada, the UK and other European countries, as well as between Russia and New Zealand.

The approval of this proposal by the World Radio Conference means that those authorities that were finding some difficulty to grant an allocation to their radio amateurs now have no excuse not to grant it.

[1] A Maltese expression meaning a very long time since one can see a white fly on a very rare occasion or never

We remind you that the Maltese authorities had told us that they have no difficulty in giving us this allocation if there is the ITU World Radio Conference agreement.

5 MHz

As regards an allocation on this frequency no agreement was reached because there were too many interests, mostly from broadcasters who wanted to increase their allocation between 4 MHz and 10 MHz by 300 kHz. Due to no agreement being reached discussions were also stopped as regards a 5MHz allocation to radio amateurs.

However, this lack of agreement does not stop national authorities to give an allocation to their radio amateurs as a number of countries have already done and about which we have given you information several times in this magazine.

We hope that the Maltese authorities will not continue to live in the middle ages and perhaps accept our proposals so that we will also be given an allocation on this frequency.

500 kHz

As regards this frequency progress was made in the sense that a provisional proposal was put on the agenda for the next World Radio Conference which will probably be held in 2001 for radio amateurs to be given 15 kHz between 415 kHz – 526.5 kHz.

Similar to the 5-MHz frequency this does not mean that progressive national authorities that want to see their radio amateurs at the forefront cannot give an allocation to their radio amateurs. As we have brought to your attention several times, a number of countries have already given their approval so that radio amateurs can carry out experiments on frequency near 500 kHz.

Further up I have already written that notwithstanding difficulties on this frequency due the size of the antenna where the wavelength is 600 metres on 500 kHz, although not as great as those on a frequency of 136 kHz where the wavelength is 2,200 metres, a number of radio amateurs have already communicated among themselves. See further up in this magazine and also previous editions of this magazine.

Conclusion

The World Radio Conference ended on Thursday 15 November and the Final Acts were signed on Friday 16 November, while the next one to be held is proposed for 2011.

If you think that they leave everything for the last moment you are not thinking correctly. In fact, as I have already said further up there is the proposal about 500 kHz, while the planning has already started on Monday 19 November when the preparatory conference met for two days.

There were a number of disappointments, among them the lack of an increase of a 50 MHz allocation in Region 1 and of an official allocation on 5 MHz, but there was also the satisfaction about the 136kHz frequency as well as the putting on the agenda of the provisional proposal for an allocation between 415 kHz – 526.5 kHz.

From our side we will continue to make everything possible so that perhaps at last we will be given allocations as have been given to radio amateurs in other countries. Slowly we are seeing progress by the authorities, although we think that this is too slow.

Therefore, whoever wants to work on 136 kHz should start preparing so that when we are given an allocation we can start communicating between ourselves and with other foreign radio amateurs.

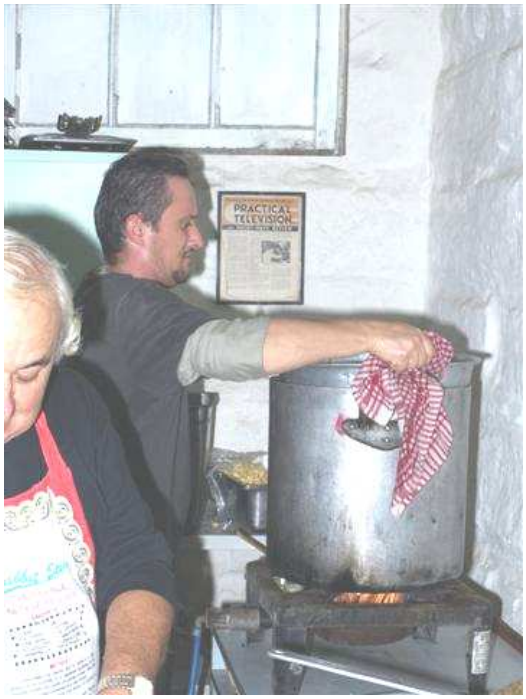
Lawrence 9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Activity with the Civil Protection Department During l-Iljieli Mdawwlin in Valletta City

As you can see from the photos, the service provided by the radio amateurs during l-Iljieli Mdawwlin in Valletta was not only by speech on the radio, but they also gave a television service which no doubt will be useful to all those who are not on the scene to have a picture, in the true sense of the word, of the actual situation on the scene. Do not forget that as it is said, a picture is worth a thousand words, more so when it is from the place of an accident.

These are a few photos of the Pasta Night
That we had at the Club
On 27 October 2007

George 9H1AT & Joe 9H1AJ cooking



Joe 9H1AJ & Ivan 9H1PI cooking

Joe u Ivan on Practical Cooking not Practical Television as appears in the frame

9H1SP-XYL u 9H1BG distributing food

9H1SP Paul and 9H1XE Edwin who always take care of the bar

Thanks to ALL those who gave their share in all the work because whenever we have an activity they start from Saturday morning arranging the tables and things, cook everything, and take care of the bar. Thanks also goes to ALL those who clean and wash all everything. Encourage them by continuing to attend for the activities that together and with the inestimable help of these people we organize from time to time.
Lawrence 9H1AV / 9H9MHR

Times of Malta report on the Jamboree

Thu, Nov 1, 2007
Times of Malta

Virtual jamboree

Maltese scouts were among the over 25 million scouts from 225 countries and territories who took part in the 11th Jamboree On The Internet and the 50th Jamboree On The Air which took place on October 20 and 21.

The Jamboree On The Internet, an annual event, saw scouts and guides from all over the world make contact with each other by means of the internet, in a virtual jamboree where scouting experiences were exchanged and ideas shared, contributing to the world brotherhood of scouting.

In the Jamboree On The Air, about 500,000 scouts and guides from all over the world made contact over amateur radio. The Scout Association of Malta took part with the help of members of the Malta Amateur Radio League (MARL).

Taking part in the activities were members of the tas-Sliema, il-Fgura, Birkirkara, il-Qrendi, iż-Żurrieq, Santa Venera/Msida Sea Scouts, the North District, il-Qawra, ir-Rabat/il-Mosta, and Birżebbuga scout groups.

Repeaters

Today you have some information about repeaters and beacons in Cyprus and repeaters in the Middle East. You will not only find them useful if you go to these places, but also as propagation indicators especially in summer.

Repeaters

R2 145.650 MHz 88.5 Hz also on its output 5B4CY Vavatsinia (near Larnaka)
R4 145.700 MHz 88.5 Hz also on its output (low) Lemesos
R5 145.725 MHz 88.5 Hz also on its output 5B5CY Troodos scouts camp (temp)
R6 145.750 MHz 88.5 Hz also o n its output Tremithousa near Paphos
RU 439.600 MHz 88.5 Hz Not yet insalled

VHF Simplex

S20 145.500 MHz Calling frequency
S23 145.575 MHz 88.5 Hz popular in Limassol
S22 145.550 MHz Paphos Net Sunday mornings 09.15 local time

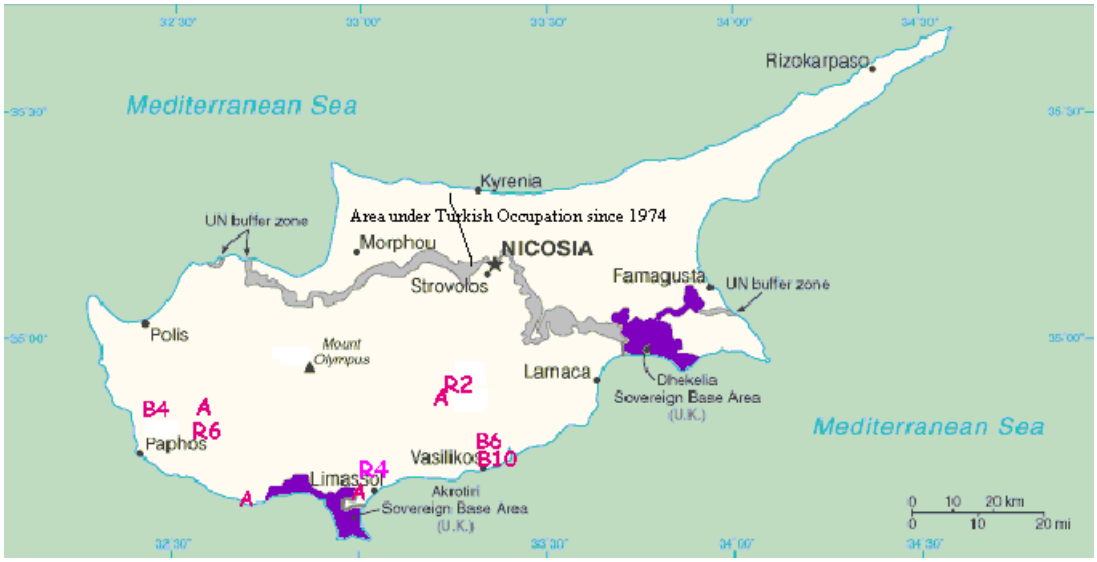
APRS

144.800 MHz APRS 5B4CYA-3	Limassol
144.800 MHz APRS 5B4CYA-2	Pissouri
144.800 MHz APRS	Agois Photios
144.800 MHz APRS 5B8BE-11	Vavatsinia
144.800 MHz DX Cluster 5B4AIE-1	Pafos

Stazzjonijiet awtomatiċi

B4 5B4CY 70.114 MHz 10W 6 el Yagi 315^{o} KM64ft
B6 5B4CY 50.497 MHz – 50.499 MHz (not stable) GP KM64pr
B10 5B4CY 28.219 MHz KM64pr

To make it easier for you, further down you also have a map of Cyprus marked with the repeaters and beacons.



Repeaters

Country	City	Out	In	CTCSS	Locator
Lebanon	Beirut	144.600 MHz	144.000MHz	88.5 Hz	KM73sv
Lebanon	Tripoli	144.625 MHz	144.025 MHz	88.5 Hz	
Lebanon	Tripoli	145.625 MHz	145.025 MHz	88.5 Hz	
Jordan	Amman	145.700 MHz	145.100 MHz		
Kuwait		145.600 MHz	145.000 MHz	77 Hz	
Oman		145.600 MHz	145.000 MHz	77 Hz	
Turkey	Antalja	145.700 MHz	145.100 MHz		KM56iv
Turkey	Adana	145.725 MHz	145.125 MHz	88.5 Hz	
Bahrain		145.750 MHz	145.150 MHz	88.5 Hz	

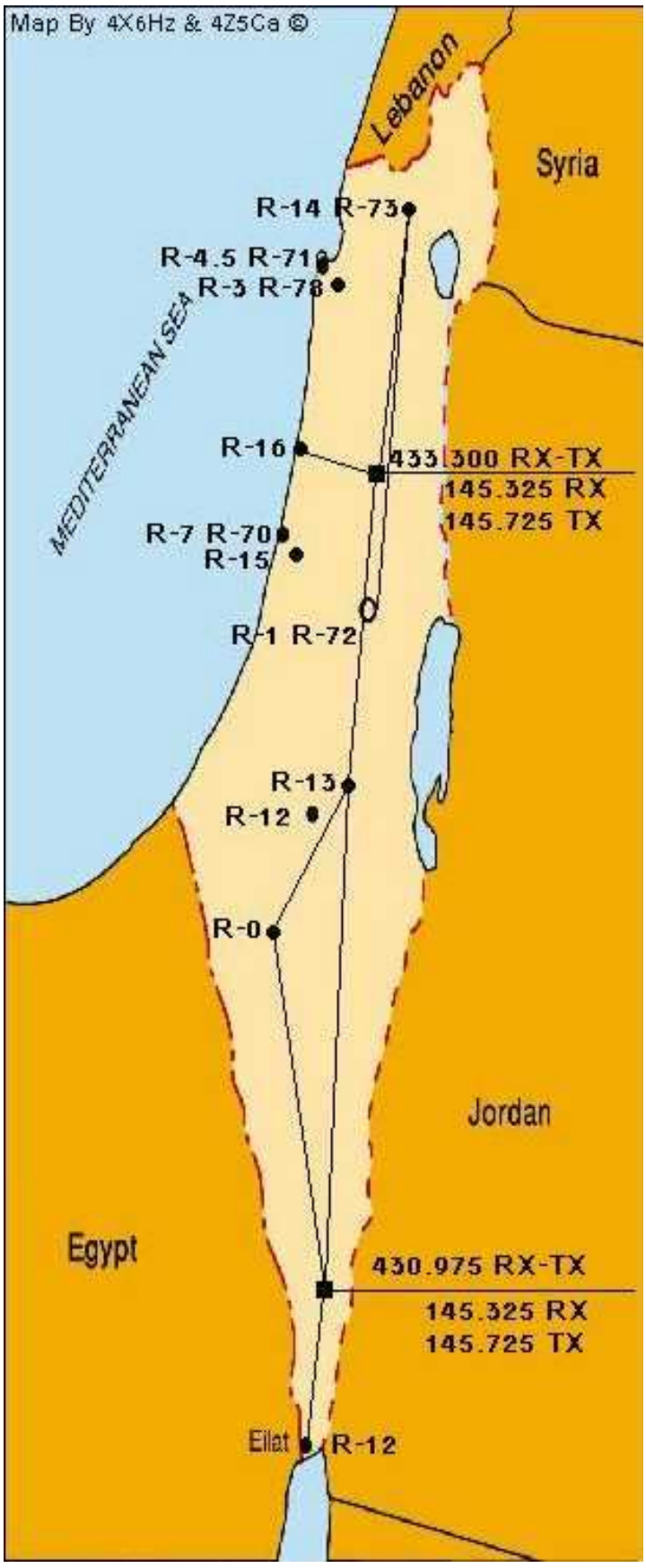
The Lebanese repeaters are connected to a repeater system that covers most of the Lebanese coast. The Jordanian repeater is the property of JY6ZZ and is presently not active. Further down you have the maps of Jordan and Israel.

Country	City	R	Out	In	CTCSS	Power
Israel	Mitzpe-Ramon	R0	145.600 MHz	- 600 kHz	91.5 Hz	80W
Israel	Jerusalem	R1	145.625 MHz	- 600 kHz	91.5 Hz	100W
Israel	Megido	R3	145.675 MHz	- 600 kHz	91.5 Hz	100W
Israel	Haifa	R4.5	145.712.5MHz	- 600 kHz	192.8 Hz	80W
Israel	Tel-Aviv	R7	145.775 MHz	- 600 kHz	91.5 Hz	100W
Israel	Haifa	R12A	145.300 MHz	- 600 kHz	91.5 Hz	80W
Israel	Beer Sheeva	R12B	145.300 MHz	- 600 Hz	192.8 Hz	40W
Israel	Eilat	R12C	145.300 MHz	- 600 Hz	91.5 Hz	80W
Israel	Jatir	R13	145.325 MHz	- 600 kHz	91.5 Hz	80W
Israel	Zefat	R14	145.350 MHz	- 600 kHz	91.5 Hz	80W
Israel	Givateim	R15	145.775 MHz	- 600 kHz	91.5 Hz	100W
Israel	Natania	R15	145.400 MHz	- 600 kHz	91.5 Hz	80W
Israel	Tel-Aviv	R70	438.650 MHz	- 7.6 MHz	91.5 Hz	100W
Israel	Haifa	R71	438.675 MHz	- 7.6 MHz	91.5 Hz	50W
Israel	Jerusalemm	R72	438.700 MHz	- 7.6 MHz	91.5 Hz	50W
Israel	Zefat	R73	438.725 MHz	- 7.6 MHz	91.5 MHz	50W
Israel	Haifa	R78	438.850 MHz	- 7.6 MHz	91.5 MHz	30W

Note on Israeli repeaters

R12 is connected with R78, R3 sends CTCSS 77 Hz, R15 sends CTCSS 114.8 Hz, R1 sends CTCSS 71.9 Hz

This information is collected from the internet webpage of the Cyprus Amateur Radio Society http://www.cyhams.org/index.shtml



This is a map of Israel that shows the repeaters position as well as their frequencies

The Committee wishes a merry Christmas and a happy new year to all the MARL members and to all the Maltese and Gozitan radio amateurs and their families

Scout Jamboree report on Maltastar.com

Further up you have read about the report on the scout jamboree as reported in the Times of Malta. The scout jamboree was also reported on www.maltastar.com on Wednesday 31 October 2007 as follows.

Over 25 million scouts from 225 Countries and territories participated in the 11th Jamboree on the Internet and 50th Jamboree on the Air, which took place on the weekend of the 20 and 21 October 2007.

The Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI), an annual event saw Scouts and Guides from all over the world make contact with each other by means of the Internet, in a virtual Jamboree where Scouting experiences were exchanged and ideas shared, whilst contributing to the world brotherhood of Scouting.

The largest annual WOSM event, the Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) held this year for the 50th time, was also be held during the same weekend.

About 500,000 Scouts and Guides all over the world made contacts with each other, and the Scout Association of Malta, by means of amateur radio through the valued assistance of volunteers and members of the Malta Amateur Radio League (MARL).

The 50th JOTA theme: ***"AROUND THE WORLD IN 50 HOURS"*****,** encouraged Radio operators to, “travel around the globe in 50 hours”, whilst establishing scouting contacts in as many different countries as possible during this event.

With this aim in mind, this golden jubilee JOTA was 2 hours longer and ran from 19 October 22:00 hrs to 21 October 24:00 hrs local time.

Scout Groups and Scouting members from the Sliema, Fgura, B’kara, Qrendi, Zurrieq, St Venera / Msida Sea Scouts, the North District, Qawra, Rabat / Mosta, and B”buga scout Groups, at group or individual levels, participated in both or either of the JOTI and JOTA activities.

Visits were made by the Chief Scout, Mr. Vincent Cassar and Deputy Chief Scout, Ms Avril Frendo were made to the Joti / Jota stations throughout the weekend.

GO and Maltanet Internet service provider, kindly sponsored the event by making Telephone Landlines and Internet service available to the JOTI Scouting Operating Stations.

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Attivitajiet tal-MARL

Membership

The Committee wishes to bring to the notice of the members that membership payment can be made at the MARL Club every Tuesday between 6.00 and 8.00 in the evening and on Sunday between 10.00 in the morning and Noon.

Annual Get Together

The Committee is inviting the members to New Year's drinks that will be held at the MARL Club on Sunday 13 January 2008 between 10.00 in the morning and Noon.

Annual General Meeting

The Committee also reminds the members that the Annual General Meeting is going to be held as usual during the last Sunday in February, that is 24 February 2008 from 10.00 in the morning onwards. If there is no quorum the meeting will start at 10.30 with the members present.

Seconded amendments and motions will have to be given to the Secretary not later than 10 days before the meeting. Do not forget that you have to have paid your membership before the meeting starts.

The Agenda

Reading and discussion of the minutes
Reading and discussion of the administrative report
Reading and discussion of the financial report
Other matters